

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 05848 300137Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8926
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5848

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, XF, US, IS, EG
SUBJECT: UN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
OF THE CAIRO CONFERENCE

REF: TEL AVIV 11244

1. ON THE STRENGTH OF SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S REQUEST TO BE KEPT CLOSELY INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE CAIRO CONFERENCE IN HIS MEETING LAST WEEK WITH AMB YOUNG AND HAL SAUDERS, POLCOUNS CHECKED WITH UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL URQUHART DECEMBER 29 CONCERNING WALDHEIM'S PLANS FOR UN PARTICIPATION (PARA 2 REFTEL). URQUHART SAID HE HAD JUST COMPLETED TELEPHONIC CONSULTATIONS WITH WALDHEIM ON THIS SUBJECT. HE SAID BOTH WALHDEIM AND HE CONSIDERED THE MANNER IN WHICH THE OBSERVERS AT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE PLAN TO HOLD POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO BE INAPPROPRIATE. HE SAID, "IT IS NOT UP TO ABDEL MEGUID TO TELL THE SECRETARY GENERAL WHERE AND WHAT HE SHOULD ATTEND." APART FROM THIS REACTION, THE QUESTION OF FURTHER UN PARTICIPATION IN THESE MEETINGS POSES A NUMBER OF DELICATE QUESTIONS. URQUHART SAID HE IS UNDER CONSTANT PRESSURE FROM ARAB
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SOURCES INVEIGHING AGAINST SIILASVUO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CAIRO MEETINGS. UNLESS THERE IS A BREAKTHROUGH PERMITTING BROADER (E.G., SYRIAN) PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETINGS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL NO DOUBT WILL INCUR INTENSIFIED OPPOSITION IF HE ASSIGNS A REPRESENTATIVE AS OBSERVER, WHETHER HE IS CIVILIAN OR MILITARY.

2. IN LIGHT OF THESE SENSITIVE AND UNCERTAIN QUESTIONS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS DECIDED TO WITHHOLD MY DECISION ON FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS. URQUHART BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS IN ANY EVENT TIME AVAILABLE TO SEE HOW THE SITUATION DEVELOPS BEFORE ANNOUNCING ANY DECISION. URQUHART DID NOT SPEAK OF RECEIVING ANY SEPARATE INVITATION TO ATTEND, BUT HE APPEARED TO ASSUME THAT THE UN WAS INCLUDED IN THE INVITATION ISSUED IN THE MEETING MENTIONED ABOVE AT THE END OF THE CAIRO CONFERENCE.

3. URQUHART ASKED US TO CONTINUE TO KEEP HIM CLOSELY INFORMED AS EVENTS DEVELOPED. HE PROMISED IN TURN TO INFORM US OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S THINKING IN THE COMING DAYS.

YOUNG

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